

The amendments that I am going to offer is just going to attempt to even the playing field between Title I students and non-Title I students, between disadvantaged students and those who have a little more advantage in our States.

This is supposedly one Nation under God. We should work through this bill to make sure that each child has an equal opportunity. We say that a lot, but we know that, in each of our States, different children have different sets of opportunities.

The amendments that I am going to offer are going to seek to close those gaps and to make sure that, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman GOODLING) said in his opening remarks, that the children who most need to have a qualified teacher have a qualified teacher, and that we have the opportunity in terms of equalizing spending to encourage our States to make sure that they are providing an equal playing field as the Federal Government comes in and hopefully provides a hand up for those who may be starting out in a deficit position.

I would encourage my colleagues to support the Student Results Act, H.R. 2.

Mr. GOODLING. Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. HILLEARY), a member of the committee.

Mr. HILLEARY. Madam Chairman, I am proud to be before the House today to support H.R. 2. This legislation will take a step in the right direction, without question, to improve the Title I education program for our children.

Providing more flexibility and accountability for Title I is exactly what our children need in disadvantaged areas. The improvement in Title I would be felt most in our inner cities where Title I funds repeatedly get caught in a bureaucratic maze and too few of those dollars actually reach our children.

However, I also want to commend the committee for realizing that rural schools must also be helped. Within H.R. 2, there is a section that specifically will allow the rural schools to receive the aid that they might not otherwise receive.

Often rural schools are at a disadvantage in receiving formula grants, like Title I, and competitive grants. These communities simply do not have the tax base and the access to grant writers that some of their bigger urban counterparts do. In addition, the formulas are skewed in some cases to strike against rural areas even if they have a high poverty quotient.

H.R. 2 successfully, although not completely, addresses this problem by including a rural schools initiative that will provide additional flexibility and funds for those underserved populations.

I hope that all of my colleagues can join together and support this great piece of legislation.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

Mr. BONIOR. Madam chairman, I thank the gentleman from Missouri, my ranking member, for his time.

Madam Chairman, I want to say at the beginning how much I appreciate the efforts by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) and my distinguished colleague on the other side of the aisle, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and for their amendment; and that is the issue to which I would like to speak for just a second, Madam Chairman.

Their voices on this issue will and have made an enormous difference, not just in this Congress, but in the lives of young girls who will grow up to be women and leaders in their communities for decades and generations to come.

This amendment that they are offering reaffirms our commitment, our Nation's commitment to offer girls equal educational opportunities from the day they start school. That is when the difference has to be made, right out of the box, right from the beginning.

This amendment will provide important training and resources for our teachers so that they are aware of their need to be equitable in how they pursue their educational instructions in the classroom.

Different expectations lead to different academic performances. So if a girl in the classroom is not expected to excel in math or in science, which leads to careers that are lucrative in terms of their financial ability and are productive and are important in terms of the overall community, if they are not expected to excel in those areas, they will not excel in those areas.

So the attitude that is brought into the classroom by the teacher is critical, and that requires training and understanding.

Over time, if this is not done, what we have is a situation which leads to inequality and then just enormous missed opportunities later on for these girls and then eventually women. With training, teachers could learn to get the most out of every student regardless of their gender.

Then, fourthly, let me just say that this amendment will help America close an alarming gender gap between boys and girls in technology: math, science, but also in technology. Experts predict that 65 percent of all the jobs in the year 2010 will require technological skills, but only a small percentage of girls take computer science classes or go on to pursue degrees in math and science. If girls are not being encouraged in these fields, they and their families are, as I said, going to suffer economically in the future.

In conclusion, Madam Chairman, let me just say that it used to be said that teachers can change lives with just the right mix of chalk and challenges. Well, in today's high-tech world, the challenges are there, but the chalk is not enough.

This amendment will put resources into our schools that will pay dividends for generations to come. It will create a sensitivity. It will create a training. It will create an aura that girls can do anything they set their minds to do. They can be challenged. They can meet that challenge. They can grow up with careers that will provide them, their families, and their communities great, not only challenge, but reward in the future.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER), and all my colleagues who have worked on this legislation.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OSE) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

STUDENT RESULTS ACT OF 1999

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLING. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 4½ minutes, the balance of the time.

Madam Chairman, I am extremely happy that this is not a status quo piece of legislation. We have had status quo in this program for the first 20 years of this program, and it was a disaster. In 1994, we added a little bit of accountability. We are not sure what that brought us yet. We will find that out after the studies are done by the Department as to how they messed up the scoring on the tests.

I am also pleased that this has been a bipartisan effort, as most of our education bills have. I am happy to say that, so far, we passed the Flexibility Act in a bipartisan fashion. I am happy to say that we passed the Teacher Empowerment Act in a bipartisan fashion. The bipartisan Teacher Empowerment Act takes care of the class size reduction problem. The tax bill takes care of the building problem. I am happy that all of those have been passed out of our committee and on the floor of the House.

I am happy to say that, when we get to the amendment process, we will model all the preschool programs that they talk about after a program that has worked. It is called Even Start. We will make sure that, as a matter of fact, that is the model.

I think we better be careful about increasing funds. Generally, if you failed for a period of time, they say, okay, show us what you are going to do to be